

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9526

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1062

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, HU

SUBJECT: GOH EMIGRATION POLICY

REF: STATE 080268

1. GOH GENERALLY ISSUES AUTHORIZATION TO EMIGRATE TO MEMBERS OF DIVIDED FAMILIES AND PERSONS OVER AGE OF 55 WHO WISH TO JOIN CHILDREN, BROTHERS AND SISTERS RESIDING ABROAD. GREAT MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO APPLY FOR PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE ARE, IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE, NEWLYWEDS, WHO WISH TO JOIN FOREIGN SPOUSES, WIVES AND/ OR MINOR CHILDREN DESIRING TO BE REUNITED WITH HUSBANDS AND PARENTS LIVING ABROAD PERMANENTLY WITHOUT HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT PERMISSION, AND ELDERLY PERSON. OF 145 IMMIGRANT VISAS ISSUED BY EMBASSY LAST YEAR, ALMOST ALL OF THEM WERE TO PERSONS IN ABOVE CATEGORIES. WHILE WE DO RECALL ONE INSTANCE WHERE A THIRD PREFERENCE VISA APPLICANT AND

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FAMILY, WHO HAD NO CLOSE RELATIVES IN US, WERE PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE, OUR EXPERIENCE IS THAT APPLICATIONS FOR EMIGRATION AUTHORIZATION BY PERSONS WITHOUT CLOSE RELATIVES GENERALLY UNSUCCESSFUL. AS FAR AS WE KNOW GOH RESTRICTIONS ON EMIGRATION APPLY TO ALL COUNTRIES INCLUDING OTHER WARSAW PACT MEMBER NATIONS.

2. HUNGARIAN STATUTES RESTRICT RIGHT OF EMIGRATION TO PERSONS OVER 55 WHO SEEK TO RESIDE PERMANENTLY ABROAD FOR PURPOSE OF JOINING PARENTS, CHILDREN OR SPOUSES. HOWEVER, THEY PROVIDE THAT MINISTER OF INTERIOR MAY WAIVE THIS PROVISION IN QUOTE JUSTIFIED CASES UNQUOTE. AS GREAT MAJORITY OF THOSE RECEIVING IMMIGRANT VISAS FROM EMBASSY UNDER AGE OF 55, ASSUME THEY BENEFIT FROM THIS DISCRETIONARY POWER OF INTERIOR MINISTER.

3. NUMBER OF IMMIGRANT VISAS BY EMBASSY HAS DECLINED FROM 310 IN 1967 TO 145 IN 1972. HOWEVER, REASON FOR DECLINE HAS NOT BEEN A TIGHTENING UP BY GOH, BUT RATHER ABILITY OF THOSE OVER 55 WITH CLOSE RELATIVES IN US

TO RECEIVE PERMISSION FOR STAYS ABROAD OF ONE TO TWO YEARS. THESE PERSONS, WHO FORMERLY HAD TO EMIGRATE FROM HUNGARY IN ORDER TO REMAIN ABROAD FOR LENGTHY PERIODS OF TIME, NOW MAY RECEIVE REGULAR TOURIST PASSPORTS FOR THIS PURPOSE AND, IN GREAT MAJORITY OF CASES, ARE ISSUED NONIMMIGRANT VISAS BY EMBASSY. FIGURES FOR EMBASSY IMMIGRANT VISA ISSUANCE 1967-1972 AS FOLLOWS:

1967	310
1968	250
1969	270
1970	250
1971	160
1972	145

GOH DOES NOT PUBLISH STATISTICS REGARDING EMIGRATION. OTHER WESTERN MISSIONS HERE ISSUE FEWER IMMIGRANT VISAS THAN WE AVERAGING FROM ABOUT ONE PERMONTH FOR AUSTRIANS TO PERHAPS 3 OR 4 PER MONTH FOR CANADIANS.

4. HUNGARY IMPOSES NO SPECIAL TAXES ON THOSE WISHING TO
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EMIGRATE ABROAD. FEE FOR EMIGRATION PASSPORT, 250 FORINTS (\$10) FOR APPLICATION AND 1,500 FORINTS (\$60.00) FOR ISSUANCE IN CASES OF THOSE EMIGRATING TO WESTERN COUNTRIES. FEES SOMEWHAT LESS FOR EMIGRATION TO SOCIALIST COUNTRIES (FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ON EMIGRATION PASSPORT FEES PLEASE SEE BUDAPEST A-90 OF JUNE 25, 1969).

5. HUNGARIAN NATIONAL BANK PERMITS THOSE LEAVING
HUNGARY FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE ABROAD TO TAKE 20,000
FORINTS (\$8 00.00) WORTH OF PERSONAL EFFECTS WITH THEM.
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